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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06

CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /097 W
---------- 024044
R 221328Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9803

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR, CO
SUBJ: PRESIDENT LOPEZ COMMENTS ON US-COLOMBIAN RELATIONS AND HIS STATE VISIT TO WASHINGTON

1. PRESIDENT LOPEZ DEDICATED A SHORT PASSAGE OF HIS STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE, DELIVERED AT THE OPENING OF THE COLOMBIAN CONGRESS JULY 20, TO RELATIONS WITH THE US AND TO HIS FORTHCOMING STATE VISIT OR WASHINGTON. RELATIONS WITH THE US, HE SAID, HAVE BEEN MAINTAINED ON A HIGH LEVEL OF CORDIALITY AND RESPECT. RECALLING THAT AT THE MEETING OF PRESIDENTS IN PANAMA LAST MARCH, HE HAD STATED THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND LATIN AMERICA SHOULD NOT BE GOVERNED BY SLOGANS PROCLAIMED UNILATERALLYBY AMERICAN PRESIDENTS, SUCH AS BIG STICK, GOOD NEIGHBOR, ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS, PRESIDENT LOPEZ OBSERVED THAT IN THE PAST THE MONROE DOCTRINE WAS DERIVED INDIRECTLY FROM INPUT BY LATIN AMERICAN DIPLOMATS ACCREDITED IN WASHINGTON. "WHY NOT ADOPT AGAIN", THE PRESIDENT ASKED, "THE PRINCIPLE OF BILATERALISM IN THESE DECLARATIONS?" NOTING THAT AT PANAMA HE HAD SUGGESTED THAT OUR ERA BE KNOWN AS ONE OF "RECIPROCAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES", HE SAID HE FOUND
IT PARTICULARLY GRATIFYING THAT
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PRESIDENT FORD ACCEPTED THIS CONCEPT IN RESPONDING TO

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AMBASSADOR TURBAY'S REMARKS DURING THE CREDENTIALS
PRESENTATION.

2. REFERRING TO THE STATE VISIT, LOPEZ SAID THAT
COLOMBIA HAS BEEN HONORED BY INVITATION TO HIM
ON THE EVE OF THE US BICENTENNIAL, AND THAT THIS
INDICATED SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF THE DEMOCRATIC
COLOMBIAN TRADITION AND THE AFFINITY OF OUR POLITICAL SYSTEMS.
HE SAID THE SCOPE OF THE MEETINGS HE WILL HAVE WITH
PRESIDENT FORD AND OTHERS, HOWEVER, CANNOT BE LIMITED TO
PROTOCOL. CEREMONY AND EULOGIES WOULD NOT BE SUFFICIENT
JUSTIFICATIONFOR ASKING FOR SENATORIAL PERMISSION TO VISIT
THE US. THE MODERN WORLD, THE PRESIDENT SAID, WAS GOVERNED
BY ECONOMIC INTERESTS SPRINGING FROM THE INTERDEPENDENCE
OF THE WORLD. HENCE, HE WENT ON, THEMES SUCH AS THE TRADE
LAW, THE COFFEE PACT AND THE DARIEN GAP HIGHWAY WOULD
BE PART OF THE FRANK DIALOG BETWEEN THE TWO PRESIDENTS.

3. PRESIDENT LOPEZ ADDED THAT SINCE WASHINGTON WAS THE
SEAT OF THE WORLD AND INTERAMERICAN BANKS, HE WOULD TAKE
ADVANTAGE OF HIS VISIT TO EXCHANGE IDEAS WITH THOSE
INSTITUTIONS REGARDING COLOMBIA'S DEVELOPMENT PLANS.
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